

## Other Agricultural Resources

### *Poultry Houses*

Buildings for housing poultry are quite common, with 113 examples documented in the current project. They are often found fairly near the house, typically at the boundary between the domestic and agricultural areas. This siting is a reflection that poultry houses bridge domestic and farm life. Many of the daily tasks of poultry care were likely handled by women in Kentucky, as they were almost universally. In Canada, for example, “poultry-raising was deemed the most suitable barn work for women....Women’s ability to nurture (especially small creatures) and to keep house (coops had to be cleaned) and their attention to detail and fondness for order all served poultry-raising well.”<sup>52</sup> This sort of domestic poultry raising simply required a suitable all-in-one poultry house (also known as a hen house or chicken coop), a small outbuilding inside a fenced area to shelter chickens from predators, weather, and poachers (see WS 706, Figure 289). Inside, the poultry house is equipped with nesting boxes and roosts, as at WS 307, Figure 290. The all-in-one poultry houses vary in form: one of the most striking of outbuildings is the cantilevered-type poultry house (WS 931, Figure 291), which allowed droppings to fall to the ground below where they could be removed. However, the most common type of chicken house encountered is a simple, shed-roof structure, as at MN 241 (Figure 298).



**Figure 289:** *WS 706, Poultry House, mid twentieth century, Texas vicinity.*

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<sup>52</sup> Halpern, Monda, *And on that Farm He Had a Wife: Ontario Farm Women and Feminism, 1900-1970*, (Montreal and Ontario: McGill-Queen’s Press, 2001), 34.



**Figure 290:** *WS 307, Exterior, left, and interior, right. Early-mid twentieth century vertical plank frame Chicken House adjacent to a Well House behind. Laying boxes are visible in the interior, right.*

Over time, poultry production evolved from a domestic source of eggs and meat into a complex agricultural business. In the twentieth century, farmers increasingly specialized in various aspects of poultry production, including breeding chicks, raising chickens for meat, and egg production. Agricultural engineering increasingly influenced the design of poultry houses with systems introduced for ventilation, heating, cooling, nesting, feeding and waste management, and different buildings types for the various specializations. While late nineteenth through middle twentieth poultry houses often initially appear to be vernacular structures, many of them are in fact based upon plans from various agricultural journals and bulletins. By the 1930s, for example, standardized plans for agricultural outbuildings were available from local agricultural extension agencies. That the extension service had an impact is documented by at an example of the poultry house at WS 416 (Figure 295), which is very similar to the “Laying house” plan available from the University of Kentucky’s College of Agriculture (Figure 294). As it turns out, according to his son, Eugene Mudd built the laying house at WS 416 in 1939 with plans obtained from the local agricultural extension agency.

The Poultry house at WS 476 (Figure 4) is similar enough to the University of Kentucky’s “Portable Brooder house” (Figure 293) to suggest that while it probably was not built from those plans, it probably can be identified as a brooder house, a poultry house dedicated to raising chicks. It was important for these buildings to be well ventilated, warm, clean, and dry. Many of them have a small stove for heat (Figure 299). They often have large glazed windows facing south and louvers for ventilation, as well as a small door for the chickens to have access.

At WS 476, there is a second, larger poultry house (Figure 292), which must have been used for egg layers or raising mature chickens for meat. Interestingly, the brooder house is located near the edge of the domestic yard, while the larger poultry house is out in the agricultural yard near the larger barns, suggesting a division of labor in the care of poultry at this site.

Other chicken houses such as the one at MN 193 (Figure 296), with its shed roof ventilation dormers, or the cantilevered type already discussed above (WS 931, Figure 291) appear to have probable origins in published designs. MN 193 is large enough to indicate that chickens must have a significant commercial aspect of this farm. Further research on the subject would help us to separate local improvised vernacular poultry house forms from published designs. Some later chicken houses grew much, much larger, as poultry production began to move toward the current industrial model of buildings with thousands of birds, as at WS 679 (Figure 297). At the same time, the chicken business became much more centralized in other parts of the country, so very large poultry houses like WS 679 are not common in Marion and Washington counties, and smaller houses continue to be constructed up to the present day.

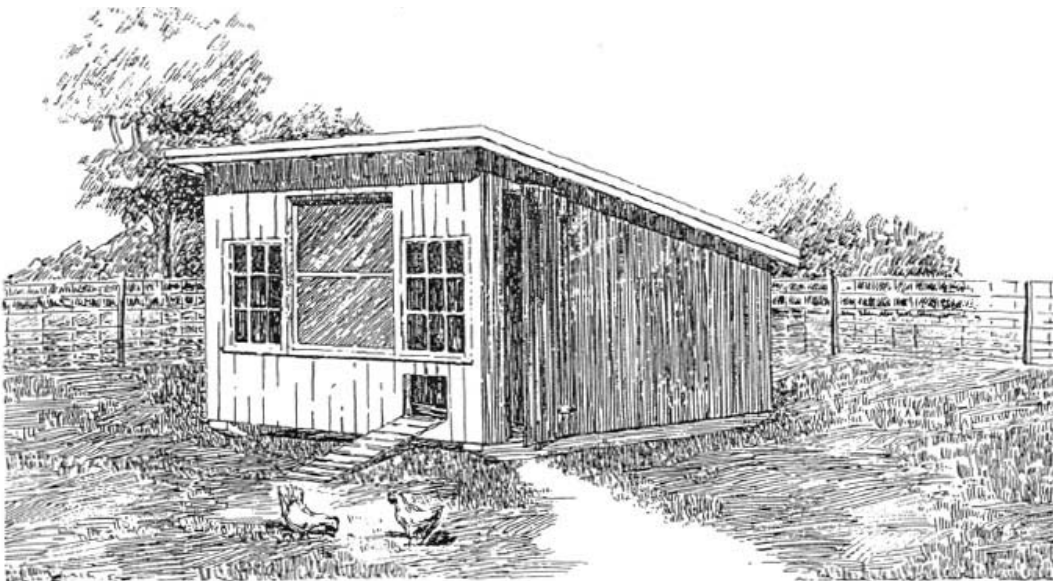


**Figure 291:** *WS 931, Frame Chicken House, early twentieth century, Willisburg. This type of chicken house with cantilevered bays is a standard form in the twentieth century. The undersides of the bays are slatted to allow manure to sift through so that it could be collected underneath.*





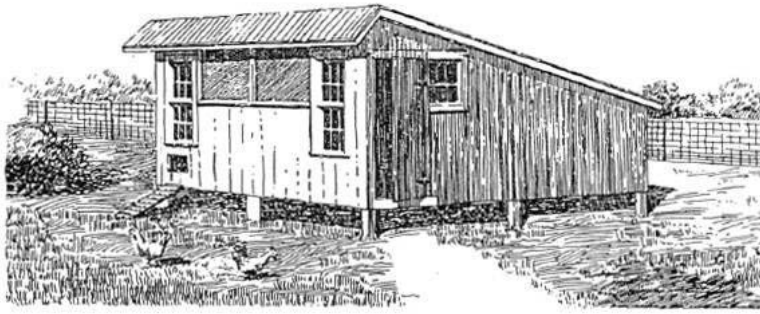
**Figure 292:** WS 476, Poultry House, 1930s-40s, Mackville vicinity. In contrast to the Brooder House at this site shown in Figure 4 , this structure is located further away from the house, between the Tobacco Barn and the Stock Barn.



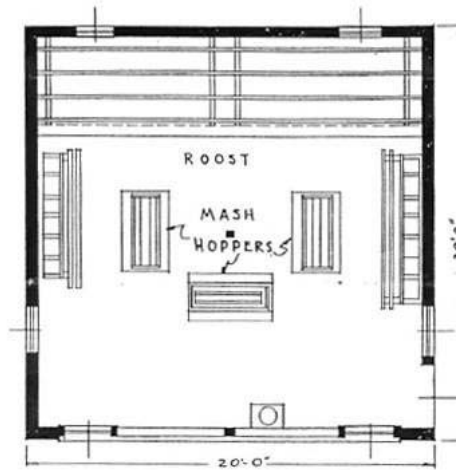
### Portable brooder house, plan Ky. 11.727-3 (20 cents).

This 300- to 350-chick colony brooder house, under proper management, provides, at a reasonable cost, the fundamental housing requirements for the successful brooding of chicks: (1) ventilation thru windows, the muslin-covered opening and by rear wall-vents; (2) sunlight thru windows and open front if house is faced South, East, or Southeast; (3) dryness; (4) freedom from drafts by proper management of ventilation and by having tight walls and floors; (5) durability, if materials are selected wisely; (6) sanitary conditions by proper cleaning, management of ventilation, and by following a range rotation or moving the house each year to clean ground. The plan also provides the necessary details for constructing a sun porch. For further information on housing and brooding chicks see Kentucky Extension Circular No. 157.

**Figure 293:** Portable brooder house, from *Plans for Dwelling and Farm Buildings in Kentucky* (Lexington: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Extension Division, 1940)



Laying house, plan Ky. 11.727-2 (20 cents).



The standard 20' x 20' Kentucky shed-roof house was designed for Kentucky conditions to provide sanitary, comfortable, well-lighted quarters for 100 laying hens, allowing 4 square feet of floor space and 8 to 10 inches of roosting space per bird. One nest is provided for each four hens. Multiple units for larger flocks can be provided by building several of the 20-foot units. Kentucky Extension Circular No. 107 gives additional information on housing farm poultry.

**Figure 294:** Laying house, from *Plans for Dwelling and Farm Buildings in Kentucky* (Lexington: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Extension Division, 1940). Compare to WS 416, Figure 295.



**Figure 295:** WS 416 Eugene Mudd's Chicken House, 1939, Fredericktown vicinity. According to the current owner, Mr. Mudd's son, Tom, the house was built from plans obtained from the Agricultural Extension Agency, compare to the "Laying House Plan" in Figure 294.





**Figure 296:** *MN 193, Poultry House, 1930s-40s, near Terrapin Run. The roof has two dormer vents.*



**Figure 297:** *WS 679, 1950s-1960s Chicken House, near Pottsville. A larger chicken house for a commercial operation.*



**Figure 298:** MN 241, *Chicken House, 1930s-1940s, Near Loretto*



**Figure 299:** WS 436, *Joe Rine's Brooding house, 1930s-1940s, Springfield vicinity: exterior, left, and interior, right, showing warming stove.*



## *Corn Cribs*

Corn cribs are structures used to store and dry corn still on the cob. Corn cribs are designed to keep the crop dry, above ground, and well ventilated. They are common structures: 96 were located in the survey area. The location of the building may vary, but it typically convenient to the agricultural yard. The crib is typically long and narrow, and often augmented with one or more side sheds, as in the crib at WS 85 (Figure 300), or placed under one roof with a sheltered wagon or carriage bay (WS 278, Figure 301). A common form has two cribs paired side by side under one roof with a space between wide enough to accommodate a carriage or a tractor (see WS 674, Figure 302), or the center area may be enclosed for a granary or some other purpose. Cribs are also incorporated into multi-purpose barns, frequently sharing a roof with grain storage (Figure 303), or taking up some of the floor space in a hay/stock barn (see WS 294, Figure 304).



**Figure 300:** *WS 85, Frame Corn Crib, early-mid twentieth century, with side sheds being used to hang tobacco and shelter farm machinery, Mooresville vicinity.*

Cribs built of log, including temporary structures of light poles, are common even after log construction fell out of use for most other structures, perhaps because log construction lends itself well to creating ventilated structures (see WS 333, Figure 305, and WS 290, Figure 306 ). Frame corn cribs are enclosed with tightly spaced horizontal, vertical, or diagonal slats siding the walls with gaps between them allowing air to flow (see WS 278, Figure 301, and MN 655,



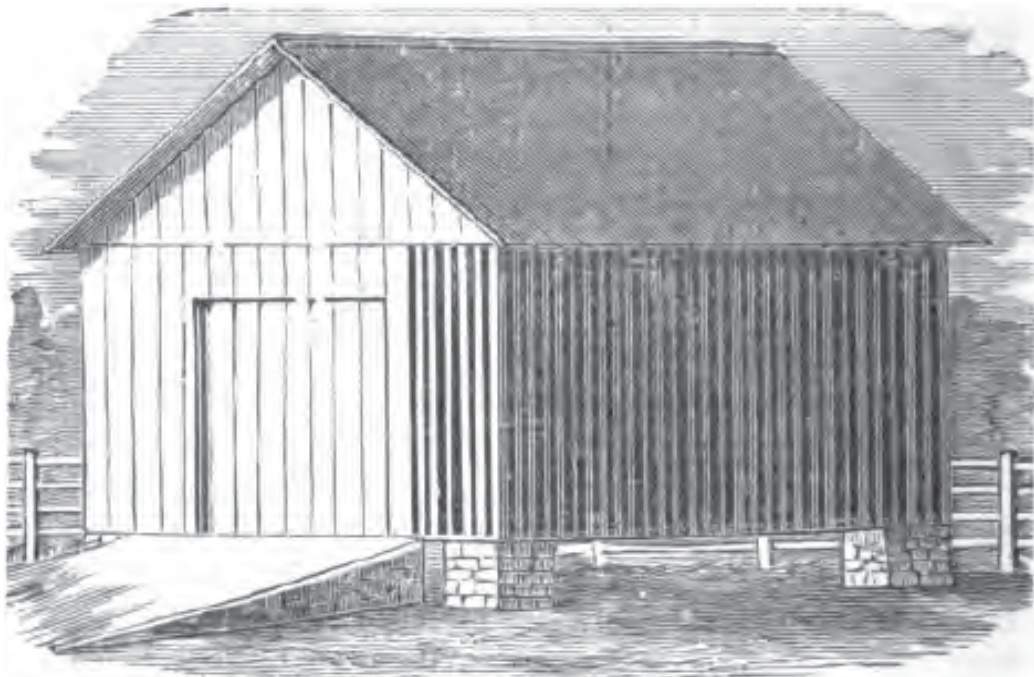
Figure 307). The forms of corn cribs changed only slowly over the 19th-early 20th century, so construction dates must be estimated based upon technology such as nails and tool marks. In the early-mid 20th century, however, you begin to see prefabricated metal corn cribs in round or oval shapes (see MN 320, Figure 308 ).



**Figure 301:** *WS 278, Side Drive Corn Crib, early-mid twentieth century, Maud vicinity.*



**Figure 302:** *WS 674, Lanham Farm: frame Center-drive Corn Crib, early-mid twentieth century, Pottsville vicinity.*



**Fig. 188.—VIEW OF CORN CRIB AND GRANARY.**

**Figure 303:** *Corn Crib/Granary, from Byron D. Halsted, Barn Plans and Outbuildings (New York: Orange Judd Co, 1898), 184.*



**Figure 304:** *WS 294, Multi-purpose Barn 1920s-30s, Booker vicinity, interior. Part of the interior is taken up by paired Corncribs with a central aisle inside. Note the diagonal openings in the door jambs – slats could be inserted here to control the height of the opening.*





**Figure 305:** *WS 333, Cecil/Mudd farm, log corn crib, late nineteenth century, Fredericktown vicinity*



**Figure 306:** *WS 290, Log single pen Corn Crib, mid-late nineteenth century, later converted to a meat house, Mooresville vicinity.*





**Figure 307:** MN 655, Ellis Farm: frame, single pen Corn Crib, late nineteenth-early twentieth century, Bradfordsville vicinity.

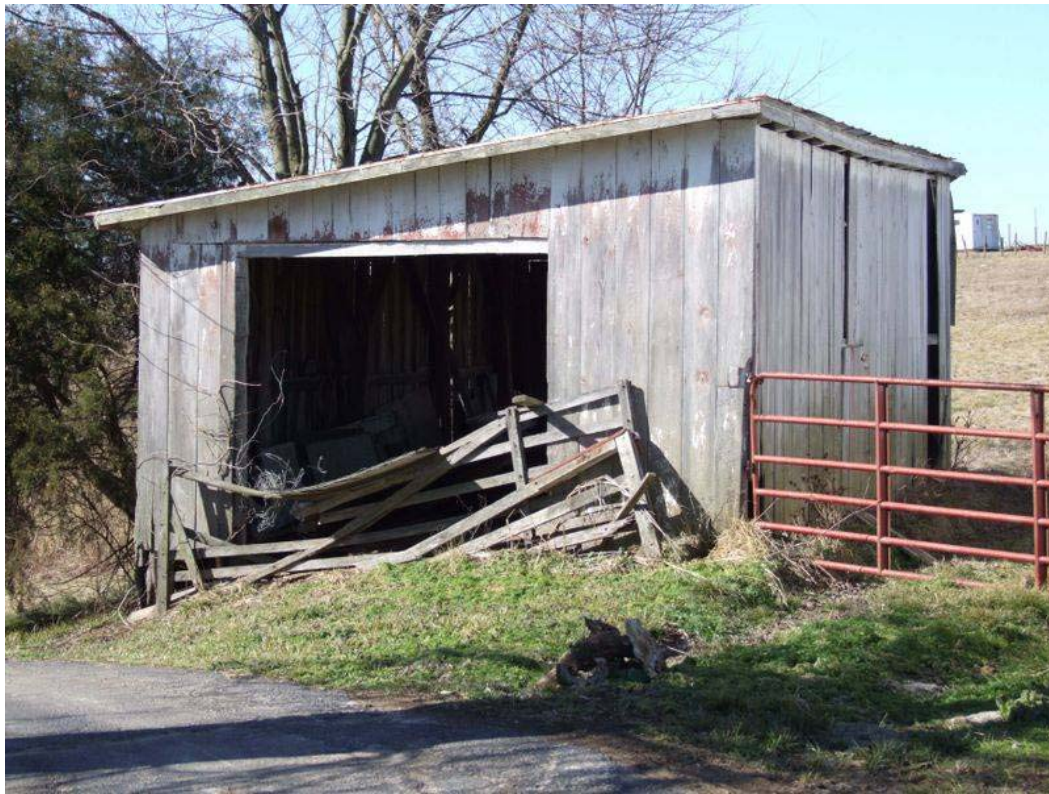


**Figure 308:** MN 320, Peterson Farm: mid twentieth century prefabricated metal Corn Crib, Dant vicinity.



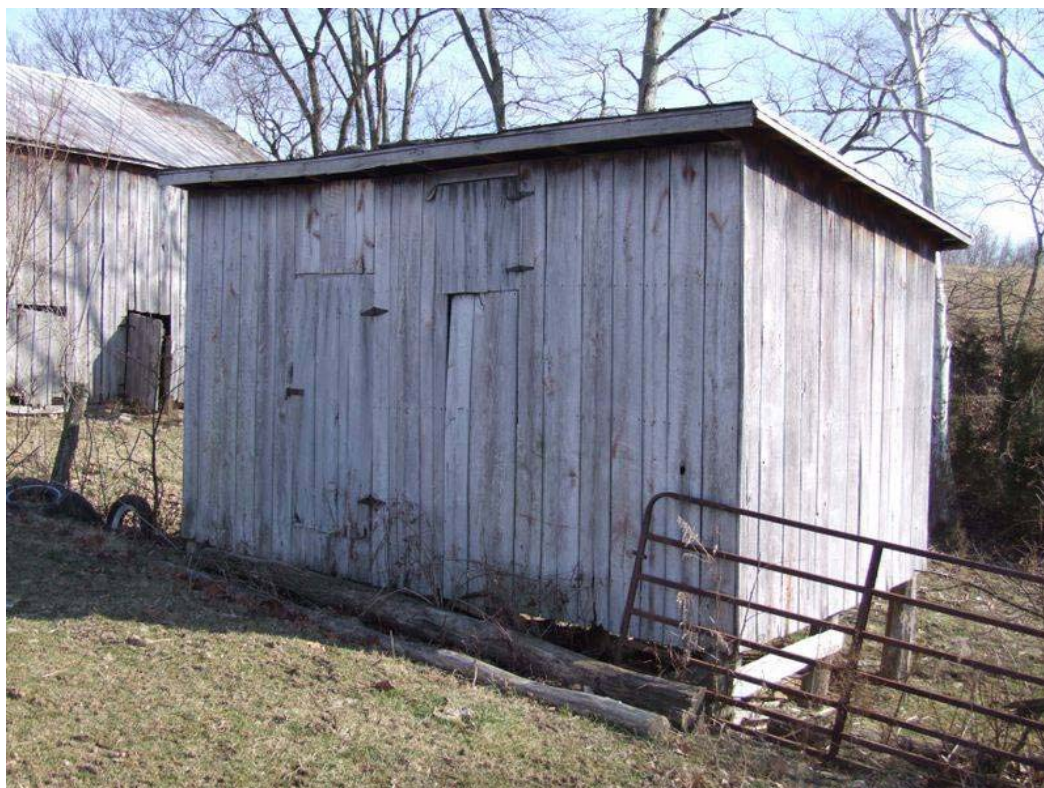
### *Scale houses*

Scale houses superficially resemble garages or workshops. They house a large scale for weighing cattle, grain, or other products for market. They have two areas inside. One is the drive-through bay for the load platform, suitable for wagons, farm animals, or trucks. Beside that is a narrow aisle where the scale is set and read. The scale has sliding weights like an old-fashioned doctor's scale. One example of a scale house was identified in the RHDI survey, a shed roof building at WS 590 (Figure 309).



**Figure 309:** *WS 590: Scale House, twentieth century, Mackville vicinity.*

Granaries are buildings suited for the storage of grains such as shucked corn, wheat, or rye. In the nineteenth century, grain was stored in buildings designed for the purpose, sometimes in one side or upstairs in a combined corn crib/granary (Figure 303). Twenty-eight granaries were documented in the survey area. Typical examples are small shed-roof buildings fairly similar to some poultry houses or corn cribs, but differing in detail (WS 476, Figure 310). An earlier and more elaborate example is found at MN 467 (Figure 311). Much like the corn crib at WS 85 (Figure 300), it has attached sheds for storage of vehicles or implements. Its function as a granary is revealed by the board walls lining the interior space (Figure 312). The higher than normal foundation is designed to help protect the grain from rats. Larger granary buildings are known in the state, but very few examples of this were located in the survey area. One exceptional example was found at MN 923 (Figure 313). The small numbers of larger granaries may be attributed to the rise in the first half of the twentieth century of alternatives for grain storage in the form of silos and bunkers.

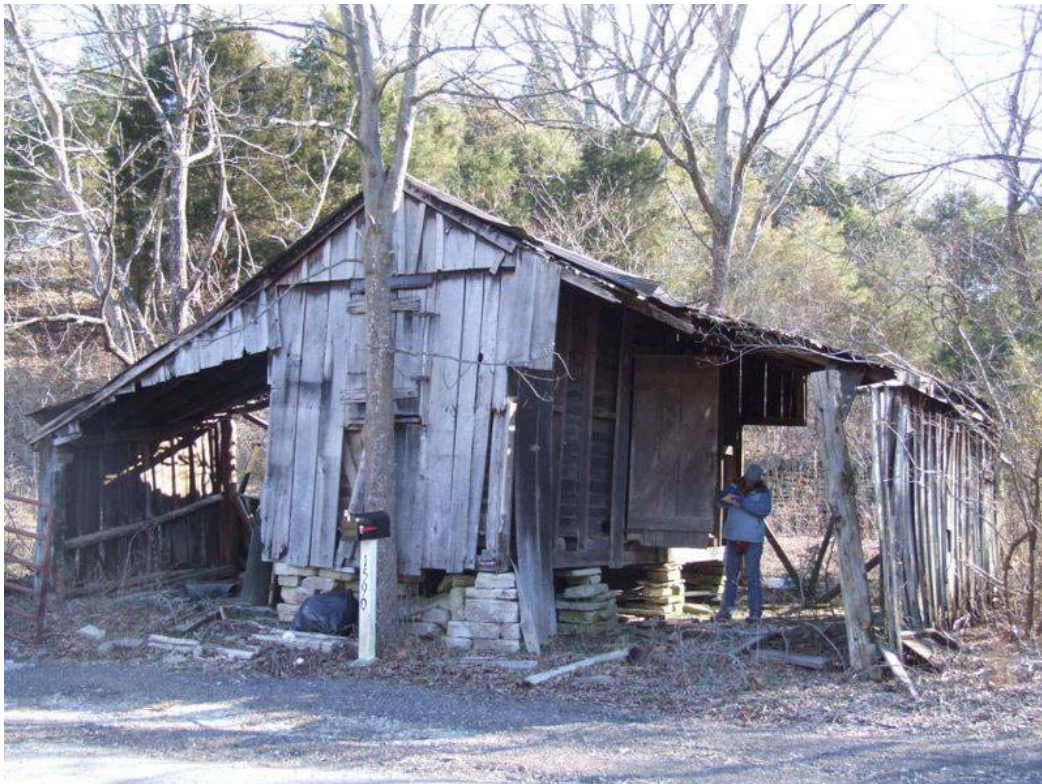


**Figure 310:** *WS 476, Granary, early-mid twentieth century, Mackville Vicinity.*



Silos are not limited to grain storage, as they were used to store feed corn and silage such as fodder – the green leaves of corn plants, alfalfa, clover, and the like. Prior to the development of silos in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, silage was stored in pits or covered stacks. Silos were observed in large numbers in the survey area. The typical example is of concrete stave construction bound with metal straps as at WS 287 (Figure 314). Poured concrete (WS 580, Figure 315) and metal silos (MN 558, Figure 316) were also observed. Early silos were unloaded by hand, but later examples are joined to barns or covered feeding sheds and a long mechanical screw to distribute the feed from the silo into a long trough along the feed alley (WS 27, Figure 317).

Bunkers are prefabricated metal structures for the storage of grains, somewhat resembling silos, but shorter and wider, as at MN 45 (Figure 318). Similar structures of varying size and design are also found for the storage of corn (MN 320, Figure 308) and other agricultural products such as fertilizer and seed.



**Figure 311:** *MN 467, Granary, late nineteenth-early twentieth century, Manton vicinity. See also Figure 312.*



**Figure 312:** *MN 467, Interior view. See also Figure 312.*



**Figure 313:** *MN 923, Granary (possibly including corncribs), late nineteenth-early twentieth century, Greenbriar vicinity.*





**Figure 314:** *WS 287, Concrete stave Silo and Feed Barn, Mooresville vicinity.*



**Figure 315:** *WS 580, Poured Concrete Silo, mid twentieth century, Texas vicinity.*



**Figure 316:** *MN 558, Metal Silo, mid twentieth century, Frogtown vicinity.*



**Figure 317:** *WS 27 Feed Carrying Mechanism and Feed Shed attached to Silo, mid twentieth century, Maud vicinity.*





**Figure 318:** *MN 45, Prefabricated metal Grain Bunker, mid-late twentieth century, Bradfordsville vicinity.*

### *Cart or Machine Sheds*

Single story, open-front, shed roof buildings used for storage of wagons and mule, horse, or ox drawn farm machinery were common fixtures on mid-nineteenth century farms. They became more common with the introduction of tractors and associated machinery such as plows and cultivators. The machine shed at WS 579 (Figure 319) is a typical example, this one with five storage bays. Smaller versions of this open-front shed type are often used for garages, as at WS 270 (Figure 225). The machine shed is also frequently combined with an enclosed area used as a shop for maintenance and repair of farm equipment (MN 427, Figure 215). Machine sheds are typically found in the agricultural yard area, convenient to the barns, and sometimes attached to them. Farm machinery is also frequently stored in the aisles of barns (WS 294, Figure 303).



**Figure 319:** *WS 579, Machine Shed, early-mid twentieth century, Texas Vicinity.*